United Nations A/62/514–S/2007/639

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
31 October 2007
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 29 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations from 15 to 21 October 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-57368 (E) 011107 021107

Annex to the identical letters dated 29 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Summary of Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 15 to 21 October 2007

Air violations

On 16 October 2007 at 1900 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Naqurah and circled over the sea between Beirut and Tyre, then departed on 17 October 2007 at 0200 hours over the sea off Naqurah.

On 17 October 2007 between 1115 and 1145 hours, four enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over the occupied Shab'a farmlands and circled over areas of the Shuf, the south, and western Bekaa and then departed over the said farmlands.

On 18 October 2007 between 0130 and 0154 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Yarun and circled between Shikka and the south, then departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

Between 1135 and 1310 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Jubayl and circled between Jubayl and the south, then departed over Rumaysh.

At 2329 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre and circled over the sea between Beirut and the south, then departed on 19 October 2007 at 0120 over the sea off Naqurah.

On 20 October 2007 between 1130 and 1325 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over 'Alma al-Sha'b and circled over areas of Shikka, Beirut and the south, then departed over the sea off Naqurah.

On 21 October 2007 between 1105 and 1157 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over the occupied Shab'a farmlands flying north as far as the western Bekaa, circled over areas of the south and then departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

Between 1120 and 1157 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Killa flying north as far as Shikka and from there to al-Arz, circled over areas of the south and the north, then departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

Between 1520 and 1550 hours, two enemy Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Naqurah flying east as far as Bint Jubayl and circled over areas of the south and the western Bekaa, then departed over Rumaysh.

Sea violations

On 20 October 2007 at 0005, an enemy Israeli military launch fired a Shahab-1 in the direction of a Lebanese fishing boat at a distance of approximately 100 metres from the line of buoys and 2,000 metres from the shore.

At 0015 an enemy Israeli military launch fired rounds with a medium machine gun in the direction of a Lebanese fishing boat that was in Lebanese territorial waters.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 17 October 2007 between 2235 and 2330, Israeli enemy forces trained a searchlight from its Zarit barracks position towards Mirwahin and the surrounding area.

United Nations A/62/515

General Assembly

Distr.: General
31 October 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda items 43, 127 and 128

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive and resumed substantive sessions of 2007

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

The present report details budgetary requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive and resumed substantive sessions of 2007. The expenditure requirements for the biennium 2006-2007 arising as a result of those resolutions and decisions are estimated at $238,300, which could be absorbed within the resources provided under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. The requirements for the biennium 2008-2009 considered to be additional requirements are estimated at $14,205,700, of which $84,400 is proposed to be accommodated within the provisions contained in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. An additional amount of $14,121,300 would therefore be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, including $13,290,400 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and $830,000 under section 23, Human rights. Those amounts would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require additional appropriations for the biennium 2008-2009 to be approved by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

* The present document is issued at this time owing to the need to reflect the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its resumed substantive session of 2007.

07-57343 (E) 081107

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted to inform the General Assembly of the requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive and resumed substantive sessions of 2007.

2. The Council adopted a number of resolutions and decisions in which it authorized relevant functional commissions, standing committees or expert bodies to undertake additional activities, including meetings, for which no provision had been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 and which would have an impact on the estimates of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.[1] In accordance with rule 31 of its rules of procedure, the Council was provided, where appropriate, with a statement of programme budget implications prior to the adoption of those resolutions and decisions. The additional requirements entailed by the Council's resolutions and decisions are described below.

3. In its report on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 1999 (A/54/7/Add.2), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions requested that future reports on the subject contain full cost estimates, including both conference and non-conference costs, of additional requirements. In response to that request, the additional requirements resulting from the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 2007 to be financed from the existing provisions of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, in addition to those of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, are indicated in the annex to the present report.

4. At its 47th meeting, on 27 July 2007, the Council decided to defer action on the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters[2] to its resumed substantive session. At its 48th meeting, on 4 October, the Council had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of recommendations contained in the report of the Committee of Experts (E/2007/L.16) in which it was estimated that adoption of the recommendations would entail a charge of $367,000 against the contingency fund, thereby requiring appropriations for the biennium 2008-2009 to be approved by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session. At the same meeting, the Council also had before it the draft resolution E/2007/L.30, entitled "Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters", which was subsequently withdrawn. Also at the 48th meeting, the Council adopted resolution 2007/39. The Council had been informed by the Secretariat that there were no programme budget implications.

5. In connection with the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions[3] and the associated financial implications considered by the Council at its

[1] The proposed programme budget is contained in documents A/62/6 (Introduction) and Corr.1, (Sects. 1-3), (Sect. 4) and Corr.1, (Sects. 5-7), (Sect. 8) and Corr.1, (Sects. 9-11), (Sect. 12) and Corr.1, (Sects. 13-18), (Sect. 19) and Corr.1, (Sects. 20-22), (Sect. 23) and Corr.1, (Sect. 24) and Corr.1, (Sects. 25-27), (Sect. 28), (Sect. 28A) and Corr.1, (Sect. 28B) and Corr.1, (Sect. 28C) and Corr.1, (Sect. 28D), (Sect. 28E) and Corr.1 and 2, (Sects. 28F and G), (Sect. 29) and Corr.1, (Sects. 30-35) and (Income sects. 1-3).

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 45* (E/2006/45).

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/62/38).

resumed substantive session (see sect. II.H below), as at the date of the present report, the Third Committee was holding discussions on the question. In the event that decisions adopted by the Third Committee have financial implications, established procedures with regard to the issuance of statements of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly would apply.

II. Additional requirements entailed by resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council

A. Resolution 2007/13: Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

6. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 6, 7, 9 and 10 of its resolution 2007/13, the Council:

(a) Decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July 2008, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on Haiti's long-term development strategy to promote socio-economic recovery and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities and building upon the Interim Cooperation Framework and the forthcoming poverty reduction strategy, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

(b) Expressed its satisfaction to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group and requested him to continue to support the activities of the Group adequately from within existing resources, where possible;

(c) Also requested the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2008;

(d) Decided that the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group would be reviewed at its substantive session of 2008, with a view to considering whether to continue its mandate, based on the Council's consideration of the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group and the situation then prevailing in Haiti, with due account being taken of the activities of the entities of the United Nations system active in peacebuilding in Haiti.

7. It is estimated that the support to be provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti would consist of travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for four members of the Group and one staff member of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to undertake a mission to Haiti in April 2008. The resource requirements to undertake the consultation mission are estimated at $13,500 and would provide for travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses ($11,500 for four members of the Group and $2,000 for one staff member of the Department), for which the funds had not been provided in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

8. In this connection, the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2006 (A/61/370 and Corr.1), which contained similar requests, is recalled. It was recommended in paragraph 23 of the report that provisions made under the respective sections of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, together with extrabudgetary funds, be used to cover the need for supplementary resources that had been identified. Consequently, no additional appropriation was sought over and above the level of funding approved in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 on the understanding that if the actual requirements exceeded the absorptive capacity of the related sections, the additional provisions would be reported in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

9. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its related report (A/61/498), had no objections to the approach of the Secretary-General, and the General Assembly, in section V of its resolution 61/252, concurred with that approach.

10. On the basis of this experience, and taking into account that the estimated amount for financing activities requested in resolution 2007/13 does not exceed $13,500, it is concluded that all possible efforts would be made to meet those requirements under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 together with extrabudgetary funds. Accordingly, no additional appropriation is sought.

B. Resolution 2007/15: Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau

11. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 7 and 8 of its resolution 2007/15, the Council:

(a) Expressed its satisfaction to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau and requested him to continue to adequately support its activities;

(b) Decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau through the substantive session of 2008, unless the Council decided on an earlier review of the mandate, and requested the Group to report, as appropriate, to the Council.

12. It is estimated that the support to be provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau would consist of travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for four members of the Group and one staff member of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to undertake a mission to Guinea-Bissau in January 2008. The resource requirements to undertake the consultation mission are estimated at $35,800 and would provide for travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses ($27,100 for four members of the Group and $8,700 for one staff member of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs), the funds for which had not been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

13. For the reasons set out in paragraphs 8 and 9 above, and given that the estimated amount for financing activities requested in resolution 2007/15 does not exceed $35,800, it has been concluded that all possible efforts would be made to meet those requirements under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the

proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, together with extrabudgetary funds. Accordingly, no additional appropriation would be required.

C. Resolution 2007/40: non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests; decision 2007/277: report of the seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and provisional agenda for its eighth session; decision 2007/278: support to the Bureau of the United Nations Forum on Forests in preparing for its future sessions

14. At its resumed substantive session, on 17 October 2007, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2007/40 entitled "Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests"; decision 2007/277: report of the seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and provisional agenda for its eighth session; and decision 2007/278: support to the Bureau of the United Nations Forum on Forests in preparing for its future sessions.

15. In the resolution and decisions, the Council:

(a) Noted that the United Nations Forum on Forests, at its seventh session, had adopted a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (resolution 2007/40);

(b) Reiterated paragraph 17 of its resolution 2006/49, in which it decided to consider ways of strengthening the secretariat of the Forum, within existing resources as well as through increased voluntary extrabudgetary resources, to enable it to fulfil its function more effectively, bearing in mind paragraph 163 (b) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1); (resolution 2007/40);

(c) Recommended that the General Assembly adopt the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (resolution 2007/40);

(d) Decided that the Forum should, within existing resources, convene before its eighth session, an open-ended ad hoc expert group to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework and invite the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to assist in the development of those proposals (resolution 2007/40);

(e) Took note of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its seventh session[4] (decision 2007/277);

(f) Decided that in order for members of the Bureau to carry out their functions effectively, consideration should be given to providing financial support consisting of travel and daily subsistence to members of the Bureau from developing countries and countries with economies in transition through designated extrabudgetary contributions to the Trust Fund in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests (decision 2007/278);

(g) Also decided that financial support to members of the Bureau from developing countries and countries with economies in transition should cover participation in at least one meeting of the Bureau in a year (decision 2007/278).

[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 22* (E/2007/42).

16. The Council was informed of the programme budget implications of resolution E/2007/40 and decision 2007/277 in document E/2007/L.22/Rev.1 and of decision 2007/278 by the statement read by the Secretary of the Council at the 49th meeting, on 17 October 2007.

17. In order to implement the requests contained in the above-mentioned resolution and decisions, the programme narrative and outputs of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/6 (Sect. 9)) would be modified and incorporated into the programme of work of section 9, subject to approval by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session. No modifications are required to the programme narratives and outputs of section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and 28D, Office of Central Support Services of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. The required modifications to the outputs of section 9 would be as follows:

Table 9.25

- Expected accomplishment (a): the words "adoption and" would be deleted, and the words "on all types of forests" would be added after the words "non-legally binding instrument";
- Indicator of achievement (a): the words "and collaborative actions on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and" would be inserted between the words "decisions" and "on improvement";
- Expected accomplishment (b): the words "on progress" would be inserted between the words "actions" and "towards";
- Expected accomplishment (c): the words "on sustainable forest management" would be inserted between the words "management" and "among".

Paragraph 9.78

(a) (i) a. Substantive servicing of meetings: the words "intersessional meetings (80)" would be replaced with the words "intersessional meetings (56)";

(a) (i) b. Parliamentary documentation: the following text, "report on regional input (1); report on forests and climate change (1); report on reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including in low forest cover countries (1); report on forests and biodiversity conservation (1); report on emerging issues (1); Chairman's summary of the open-ended ad hoc expert group on a global financial mechanism (1); note on progress towards sustainable forest management (1); note on the progress in implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (1); note on the progress towards achieving the four global objectives on forests (1); note on the Trust Fund in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests (1); note on the activities of the Economic and Social Council relevant to the work of the Forum (1); and provisional agenda and note on the ad hoc expert group on a global financial mechanism (2)", would be added;

(a) (iii) Ad hoc expert groups: the word "seven" would be replaced with the word "three"; the words "regional aspects of United Nations Forum on Forests", "reclustering and subject indexing of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests Proposals for Action", "annexes of a non-legally binding instrument for the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management" and "multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable forest management: civil society perspectives in conjunction with the intersessional work and the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (2)" would be deleted and the words "open-ended meeting on the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/financing framework" would be added;

(b) (iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits: the words "information kit on the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (1); booklet on review of the current financial mechanisms (1)" would be added;

(b) (v) Special events: the words "interactive panels with stakeholders, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and regional organizations (3)" would be added;

(b) (vi) Technical material: the words "guidelines and reporting format on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument (6); guidelines for providing regional inputs (3); guidelines for the review of existing current financial mechanisms (3); guidelines for providing information on events and initiatives relevant to the preparations for the International Year of Forests (3)" would be added;

(b) (viii) Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings: the words "Collaborative Partnership on Forests initiative to review the current international financing mechanisms (2)" would be added;

(c) (i) Advisory services: the words "provision of expert advice to Member States and regional organizations on the non-legally binding instrument (support to country-led initiatives) (3)" would be added.

18. It was estimated, in document E/2007/L.22/Rev.1, that the additional requirements to implement the requests contained in resolution 2007/40 and decision 2007/277 would amount to $1,578,400, including $331,900 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; $1,023,800 under section 9, Economic and social affairs; $143,900 under section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, and $78,800 under section 35, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

19. As regards decision 2007/278, it was estimated that the amount of $32,000 would be required for the biennium 2008-2009 to provide for the participation of members of the Bureau from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in at least one meeting of the Bureau a year.

20. The total additional requirements for the implementation of the above activities are estimated at $1,610,400. After deduction of the amount of $897,500, to be reprogrammed or accommodated within resources already presented in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, it is assumed that the balance of $712,900 would be financed from extrabudgetary resources, provided that they are available in sufficient amounts.

21. As regards extrabudgetary resources, it was noted in document E/2007/22/Rev.1 that the total reserves and fund balances of the Trust Fund in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests as at 30 September 2007 amounted to $2,983,737. It was estimated that the resources available in the Trust Fund in 2008-2009 would be approximately $3,600,000.

22. Consequently, the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of resolution 2007/40 and decisions 2007/277 and 2007/278 does not give rise to additional provisions over and above the resources of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

D. Decision 2007/242: Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fiftieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-first session of the Commission

23. In its decision 2007/242, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fiftieth session.[5]

24. In its report, the Commission brought to the attention of the Council several resolutions, namely, 50/1, 50/2, 50/4, 50/8, 50/9, 50/11 and 50/12, on which in accordance with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, oral statements of financial implications had been provided by the Secretariat to the Commission at the time it adopted the resolutions. In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Council was drawn to the corresponding oral statements of financial implications contained in annexes II to VIII of the Commission's report.

25. The Secretariat hereby confirms to the General Assembly that the oral statements of financial implications referred to in paragraph 24 above remain valid. Resource requirements associated with resolution 50/12 have been considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. With regard to resolutions 50/1, 50/4, 50/8 and 50/9, the estimated additional extrabudgetary resources required for implementation of the resolutions are reflected in annexes III, VIII, IV and V, respectively, and the amount relating to resolution 50/11 will be determined in the course of the biennium 2008-2009. Requirements for the biennium 2006-2007 relating to resolutions 50/1, 50/2 and 50/4 for which additional requirements will arise will be met from within available resources under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

[5] The report will be issued in final form as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 8* (E/2007/28/Rev.1).

26. Regarding resolutions 50/1, 50/4, 50/8, 50/9 and 50/11, the attention of the Commission was drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The attention of the Commission was also drawn to paragraph 67 of the first report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001,[6] in which the Committee noted that the use of the phrase "within existing resources" or similar language in resolutions had a negative impact on the implementation of activities; therefore, efforts should be made to avoid the use of that phrase in resolutions and decisions.

E. Decisions 2007/244 and 2007/245: international expert group meeting on indigenous languages and venues and dates of the seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

27. In its decisions 2007/244 and 2007/245, the Economic and Social Council decided: (a) to authorize a three-day international expert group meeting on indigenous languages and requested that the results of the meeting be reported to the Permanent Forum at its seventh session (decision 2007/244); and (b) that the seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 21 April to 2 May 2008 (decision 2007/245). In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the Council was informed of the programme budget implications of its decisions in an oral statement by the Secretariat.

28. With regard to the holding of a three-day international expert group meeting on indigenous languages, provisions have been made to hold two expert group meetings under subprogramme 3, Social policy and development, of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. The expert group meeting on indigenous languages would be undertaken within those provisions, and no changes in the programme narrative are being proposed or additional resources requested for implementation of those activities. Also, as the expert group meeting would be held on an "as available basis", no additional conference-servicing requirements are sought.

29. With regard to the seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (see para. 27 above), provisions have been made to hold the session under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. The related dates will be reflected in the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2008, and no additional programmatic or budgetary implications are envisaged in this regard.

30. In the report on its sixth session,[7] the Forum also made a number of recommendations giving rise to programme budget implications. The oral statement

[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/54/7).

[7] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43).

made at the meeting of the Forum on 25 May 2007 drew the attention of the Forum to the provisions of paragraph 1 (b) of General Assembly resolution 57/191 and paragraph 2 (a) of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/22, which state that the funding of the implementation of recommendations made by the Forum as well as funding activities under its mandate are to be met through voluntary contributions. It is understood that the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action to be carried out by the United Nations would be implemented to the extent that related resources are available.

31. A number of paragraphs in the report provide for the appointment and reappointment of special rapporteurs to prepare studies, guidelines and thematic papers. It is recalled in this connection that the Special Rapporteurs appointed by the Forum provide their services at no cost to the Organization and that the results of their work are disseminated through postings on the website of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and therefore entail no additional financial requirements. As regards the Forum's recommendation in paragraph 11 to the Commission on Sustainable Development to invite a member of the Permanent Forum to attend the Commission's meetings, should such an invitation be extended, a Forum member would attend the one-week-long annual session of the Commission. The estimated cost for the biennium, amounting to $18,300, would be met through voluntary contributions.

32. In paragraph 49 of its report, the Forum urged its secretariat, in cooperation with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to organize a side event on the occasion of the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing of the Convention on Biodiversity. Should the secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity agree to the participation of the Forum, it is anticipated that one Forum member would participate at the event, with the cost of the member's travel, estimated at $8,600, to be met from voluntary contributions. With regard to paragraph 52 of the report, the appointment of the special rapporteurs would entail no cost to the Organization.

33. In paragraph 85 of its report, the Forum decided to invite to its seventh session three special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council. The Forum also made a number of similar recommendations on activities falling under the legislative authority of the Human Rights Council. It is understood, in this connection, that should the Human Rights Council concur with those recommendations, an estimated $123,300 would be required to implement them. With regard to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 84-96 of the same report, involving the possible travel of the special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council to the seventh session of the Forum, an estimated amount of $21,800 for travel has been included under section 23, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. With regard to paragraphs 97-118 on a half-day discussion on Asia, and on urban indigenous peoples and migration, the estimated requirements of $86,500 and $15,000, respectively, to provide for consultants and travel would be financed from voluntary contributions, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/191.

34. In paragraph 127 (d) of its report, the Forum recommended that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean organize an expert group meeting to prepare recommendations to improve the identification of indigenous people in the upcoming 2010 round of censuses and other data sources. Should the

Commission concur with those recommendations, related arrangements would be made in future proposed programme budgets or, as applicable, requirements would be financed from voluntary contributions, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/191.

35. With regard to paragraph 94, in which the Forum noted the recommendation that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organize a seminar in cooperation with the indigenous host communities, States, indigenous organizations and appropriate United Nations bodies, it is estimated that $121,500 would be required for travel of representatives and staff as well as operating expenses, which would be financed from voluntary contributions, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/191.

36. In summary, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1 (b) of General Assembly resolution 57/191 that the funding of the implementation of recommendations made by the Forum and funding activities under its mandate are to be met through voluntary contributions, it is concluded that no changes in the narrative of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 and no additional resources would be required under the programme budget as a result of the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of the Forum's report on its sixth session.

F. Decision 2007/251: Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its sixteenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its seventeenth session

37. In its decision 2007/251, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its sixteenth session.[8]

38. By taking action on the report of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council, inter alia, recommended for adoption by the General Assembly draft resolutions I and II under section A and adopted draft resolutions II, III, IV, V and VI under section B of chapter I of the report. In addition, by adopting draft decision I under section C of the same chapter, the Council took note, among others, of resolutions 16/2, 16/3 and 16/5 adopted by the Commission. In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Council was drawn to corresponding oral statements of financial implications contained in annexes II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X and XI to the report of the Commission on the aforementioned draft resolutions and resolutions which were provided to the Commission at the time it took the decisions. The Secretariat confirmed to the Council that the statements of financial implications remained valid.

39. With regard to the Commission's resolution 16/3 on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body, the corresponding statement of financial implications is contained in annex X. As indicated in paragraph 4 of annex X, it should be recalled that in his note

[8] The report will be issued in final form as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 10* (E/2007/30).

A/C.5/61/10, the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly should it adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/61/9, annex, and provided that a reconvened session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held during the week of 26 to 30 November 2007, net additional resources totalling $95,800 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($45,800), and section 16, International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice ($50,000), of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. In paragraph 5 of annex X, the General Assembly was also informed that it was envisaged that the net additional requirements would be accommodated within the existing appropriation. Accordingly, no additional appropriation was sought over and above the level of funding approved in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. Should the actual requirements for implementing the provisions of the draft resolution exceed the absorptive capacity of the aforementioned sections, the additional provisions would be reported in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2006-2007. Regarding the related requirements for the biennium 2008-2009, they would be met within the provisions already included in the proposed programme budget for that biennium.

40. It will be noted that in each of the relevant statements of financial implications, attention was drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and also reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. In addition, reference was made to paragraph 67 of the first report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001,[6] in which the Committee noted that the use of the phrase "within existing resources" or similar language in resolutions had a negative impact on the implementation of activities; therefore efforts should be made to avoid the use of that phrase in resolutions and decisions.

41. The implementation of: draft resolution II under section A, recommended for adoption by the General Assembly; draft resolutions II, III, IV, V and VI under section B, recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council under chapter I of the report; and resolutions 16/2 and 16/5, adopted by the Commission, of which the Council took note, would entail extrabudgetary resources as reflected in the respective statements of financial implications contained in annexes II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII and IX to the report of the Commission. Regular budget resources had been provided in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 for implementation of draft resolution II under section A, recommended for adoption by the General Assembly, and draft resolutions III and VI under section B, recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council under chapter I of the report.

42. With respect to draft resolution I, provisions for implementation of the requested activities have been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

G. Decision 2007/262: regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

43. In paragraph (b) of its decision 2007/262, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/2007/15/Add.1).

44. In paragraph 6 of the report, it is stated that at its sixty-third session, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific had adopted a number of resolutions which were brought to the attention of the Council. In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the attention of the Council was drawn to annex I to the annual report of the Commission for 2006/07,[9] which contains the respective statement of financial implications.

45. The Secretariat hereby confirms to the General Assembly that the statement of programme budget implications contained in annex I remains valid. No additional resource requirements for the regular budget are associated with resolutions 63/1 through 63/9. Extrabudgetary resources, where appropriate, will be sought for the implementation of the activities required under the aforementioned resolutions. With respect to resolution 63/10, the additional requirement of $61,000 that would arise relating to consultancy fees and travel to countries in the Asian and Pacific region for data collection and research purposes will be accommodated within available resources under section 18, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

H. Decision 2007/279: Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

46. By its decision 2007/279, the Economic and Social Council took note of the annual report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions.[3] As stipulated in paragraph 1 of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women shall submit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, an annual report on its activities. The Committee shall also include in its report suggestions and general recommendations. On the basis of those provisions, the Council was presented with a statement of programme budget implications in document E/2007/L.42, informing it of the programme budget implications of the decisions taken by the Committee at its thirty-ninth session on the holding of additional meetings of the Committee in the biennium 2008-2009. At its thirty-ninth session, the Committee considered the statement of programme budget implications of its decision 39/I, submitted in accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, and subsequently adopted its decision 39/II. That statement of programme budget implications, reproduced in annex X of the report of the Committee on its thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions, and submitted to the General Assembly, was further amended when submitted to the Council to take into account decision 39/II as set out below.

[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 19* (E/2007/39).

1. Requests contained in decisions 39/I and 39/II

47. By its decision 39/I, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women requests the General Assembly to authorize the Committee:

(a) As a permanent measure from 2008 onward, to hold three annual sessions of three weeks each, with a one-week pre-session working group for each session;

(b) To meet, as a temporary measure in the biennium 2008-2009, for up to seven days, in parallel working groups during one of its annual sessions in each year of the biennium, for the purpose of considering reports of States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention.

48. The Committee also recommended in its decision 39/I that one of its three annual sessions be held at United Nations Headquarters so as to facilitate and encourage ongoing cooperation between the Committee and the United Nations gender equality bodies and that its Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol be granted the opportunity to meet three times a year, for a total of 10 working days, immediately prior to, or after, the scheduled sessions of the Committee.

49. By its decision 39/II, the Committee, with reference to its decision 39/I, decided that summary records of its meetings were to be issued in English only, as a temporary measure for the biennium 2008-2009, and to revisit that decision in 2009, when it would assess its requirements for meeting time. Furthermore, the Committee requested that the basis for calculating the costs for the requested extended meeting time reflected in the statement of programme budget implications be revisited so as to ensure that they were in line with the Committee's actual requirements and that the statement clearly explained the different parameters used for calculating the current requirements as compared with those of a similar request of the Committee in 2005.[10]

50. As regards languages of summary records, the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 1, article 19, of the Convention, shall adopt its own rules of procedure, hence a decision to receive summary records in English only is within the terms of reference of the Committee.

51. However, as regards the request in decision 39/II that the basis for calculating the costs for the requested extended meeting time reflected in the statement of programme budget implications be revisited, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and also reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Consequently, any information on the basis for calculating the costs in the statement of programme budget implications would be provided to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee, as appropriate and if necessary.

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[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/60/38), part two, annex IX.

2. Relationship of the decisions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the programme of work contained in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

52. The activities to be carried out relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; subprogramme 2, Supporting human rights bodies and organs, of programme 19, Human rights; and subprogramme 4, Support services, of programme 24, Management and support services, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009.[11] They also fall under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section 23, Human rights, and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

53. Provisions have been made under section 23, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for travel and per diem costs for the attendance of the 23 members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its two annual regular sessions of 15 working days each and, for each session, a five-day pre-session working group meeting, and for the cost of attendance at two annual meetings of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol, as well as for substantive, conference and support services to the Committee, the pre-session working group and the Working Group on Communications.

54. The General Assembly, in its resolution 60/230, authorized the Committee to hold a third annual session in 2006 and 2007 as a temporary measure and to meet in parallel working groups during its third annual session in 2006 and its first and third annual sessions in 2007 on an exceptional and temporary basis. The related one-time additional provisions were included in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.[12]

3. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

55. The additional annual session and meetings in parallel working groups called for in the decision, as referred to in paragraph 47 above, would allow the Committee to consider a greater number of reports of States parties annually. Prior to the adoption of resolution 60/230, which authorized the Committee in the biennium 2006-2007: (a) to hold three annual sessions of three weeks each, with a one-week pre-sessional working group for each session, and continued to authorize two annual sessions of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention; and (b) to meet for up to seven days in parallel working groups during three of its six sessions during 2006 and 2007, the Committee had considered the reports of 16 States parties annually. During 2006 and 2007, the Committee would have considered the reports of 69 States parties (31 in 2006 and 38 in 2007) and would have been able to eliminate a significant amount of the accumulated backlog of reports awaiting review.

[11] Ibid., *Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/61/6/Rev.1).

[12] Ibid., *Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/60/6/Add.1).

56. By its decision 36/I,[13] the Committee anticipated that the effective and timely implementation of all of its responsibilities beyond the biennium 2006-2007 would require that it be provided with extended meeting time in 2008 and beyond. During its thirty-seventh session, the Committee undertook an assessment of the status of submission of reports under article 18 of the Convention and, in particular, of the remaining backlog of reports awaiting consideration, and the projected future availability of reports, as well as the Committee's request to States parties with very long overdue initial reports to submit those within a given time frame. The Committee concluded that this workload, together with its other responsibilities under the Convention and those under the Optional Protocol to the Convention,[14] made it necessary for the Committee to be provided with the opportunity to hold three annual sessions, at least one of which with parallel working groups. This extended meeting time would ensure that the Committee could eliminate the backlog of reports awaiting consideration, which now stands at 27; ensure that incoming reports were considered in a timely manner; enhance its efforts at ensuring that the monitoring of the Convention in States parties with long overdue reports was undertaken; and discharge all its other responsibilities under the Convention and the Optional Protocol.

57. In 2008-2009, a staff member at the P-4 level would serve as Secretary of the Committee, assisted by one General Service (Other level) staff member. In addition, the incumbents of one P-4 post, one P-3 post and one P-2 post would provide substantive support for the work of the Committee and under the Optional Protocol to the Convention. In order to support the additional workload of the Committee consequent to the holding of three sessions, in particular in view of the additional time that would be required for preparations for the consideration of reports of States parties during the Committee's sessions in the biennium 2008-2009, general temporary assistance resources, equivalent to 12 work-months at the P-3 level, would also be required to assist with:

(a) Analysis of reports of States parties on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, drawing upon prior reports, and other relevant information, in particular from United Nations sources;

(b) The preparation of draft lists of issues and questions on reports of States parties under consideration by the Committee;

(c) In-session support to Committee experts in the preparation of draft concluding comments on reports of States parties;

(d) The provision of substantive support, especially during the sessions of the Committee with parallel working groups.

58. The current mandate of the Committee is to meet twice per year for three weeks each time. A one-week pre-session working group would precede each session. The Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol is currently convened twice a year, for a total of up to 10 days. The session meetings would require interpretation services in all six official languages, and the pre-session working group meetings would require interpretation services in

[13] Ibid., *Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/61/38), part three, chap. I.

[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

English, French and Spanish only. The total documentation required for translation into all six official languages is estimated at 6,600 pages for pre-session, 800 pages for in-session, and 800 pages for post-session relating to the two three-week sessions each year of the biennium, and a total of 800 pages for post-session documentation relating to the two one-week sessions of the pre-session working group each year of the biennium. Summary records would be provided for all the meetings of the Committee, with the exception of the pre-session working group meetings.

59. The recommendation of decision 39/I would entail one additional three-week session in each year of the biennium on a recurrent basis, which would require interpretation services in all six official languages. On a temporary basis, the parallel working groups during one of the three annual sessions in 2008-2009 would also require interpretation services in all six official languages. The additional one-week pre-session working group meeting to be held prior to the additional three-week session would require interpretation services in English, French and Spanish only. The total additional documentation required for translation into all six official languages is estimated at 3,000 pages for pre-session, 400 pages for in-session and 400 pages for post-session relating to the one additional three-week session each year of the biennium; a total additional 560 pages for pre-session, 105 pages for in-session and 105 pages for post-session relating to the parallel working groups for the biennium 2008-2009 only; and a total additional 400 pages for post-session documentation relating to the additional one-week pre-session working group meeting each year of the biennium. Summary records in English only would be provided for all the meetings of the Committee, with the exception of the pre-session working group meetings.

60. Authorization of the decision will cause the exact dates for all the meetings of the Committee, consisting of three three-week annual sessions of the Committee, three one-week annual pre-session working group meetings and three parallel working group meetings to be held in 2008-2009, to be determined by consultation between the substantive secretariat and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, subject to the availability of conference facilities and services.

61. As regards the recommendation of the Committee indicated in paragraph 48 above to hold one of the three annual sessions at United Nations Headquarters, the Committee's attention is drawn to paragraph 4, section I, of resolution 40/243, whereby the General Assembly reaffirmed that United Nations bodies should plan to meet at their respective established headquarters. Therefore, the express decision in this regard should be made by the Assembly.

62. The Committee also requested, as indicated in paragraph 48 above, that its Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol be granted the opportunity to meet three times a year for a total of 10 working days. While these increases in the scope of activities do not have any programme budget implications, given that the Working Group meets immediately prior to, or after, the scheduled sessions of the Committee, the related decision of the General Assembly is also required.

4. Modifications required in the programme of work and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

63. Approval of the draft decision would result in modifications in respect of the number of meetings and reports cited in the programme of work contained in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. In the narrative of subprogramme 2, Supporting human rights bodies and organs, of section 23, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, paragraph 23.66 (a) (xvi) would be revised as follows:

(a) In subparagraph (a), substantive servicing of meetings, the phrase "plenary and chamber meetings of the Committee (60 meetings per year) (120)" would be replaced with the phrase "plenary and chamber meetings of the Committee (104 meetings per year) (208)";

(b) In subparagraph (b), parliamentary documentation, the phrase "lists of issues and questions (38 reports annually) (76)" would be replaced with the phrase "lists of issues and questions (31 reports annually) (62)".

5. Estimated resource requirements

A. Conference-servicing requirements

64. It is estimated that additional conference-servicing requirements of $13,290,400 would arise under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. Table 1 provides the details of these requirements.

Table 1
Additional conference-servicing requirements for: plenary meetings; pre-session working groups and plenary parallel meetings (temporary)

	Plenary session meetings 2008-2009	*Pre-session working groups 2008-2009*	*Plenary parallel meetings 2008-2009*[a]	*Total 2008-2009*
Meetings servicing	464 000	73 100	216 600	753 700
Pre-session documentation	6 370 300	—	2 389 200	8 759 500
In-session documentation	890 400	—	467 300	1 357 700
Post-session documentation	890 400	518 700	467 300	1 876 400
Summary records	352 000	—	164 600	516 600
Other conference services	14 600	4 900	7 000	26 500
Total	**8 981 700**	**596 700**	**3 712 000**	**13 290 400**

[a] One-time provision for 2008-2009.

B. Non-conference-servicing requirements

Section 23. Human rights

65. It is also estimated that additional resources of $680,900 for travel, per diem and terminal expenses of the members of the Committee related to their attendance at a third annual session of three weeks in New York in each year of the biennium 2008-2009, with a one-week pre-session working group meeting for each session, effective from January 2008, would be required under section 23, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. Provision for general temporary assistance equivalent to 12 work-months at the P-3 level, estimated at $150,000, is also required under section 23, Human rights.

Section 28D. Office of Central Support Services

66. Although an additional amount of $35,100 would be required to provide for the contractual services of sound technicians at the additional sessions and meetings of the pre-session working group, the Secretariat, subsequent to the adoption of Economic and Social Council decision 2007/279, has reviewed and considered that the amount can be absorbed within the provisions under section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

67. Should the General Assembly approve the decision, the total additional requirements relating to the additional sessions of the Committee and the pre-session working group meetings would amount to $14,156,400 as enumerated in table 2. It is proposed that only $14,121,300 of that amount represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require additional appropriations for the biennium 2008-2009 to be approved by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session. The amount of $35,100 relating to section 28D will be absorbed within the provisions proposed for the biennium 2008-2009.

Table 2
Total additional requirements relating to the additional sessions of the Committee and the pre-session working group meetings
(United States dollars)

	2008	*2009*	*Total*
Section 23. Human rights			
Travel, per diem and terminal expenses	340 450	340 450	680 900
General temporary assistance	75 000	75 000	150 000
Subtotal	**415 450**	**415 450**	**830 900**
Section 2. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management			
Meetings servicing, interpretation and documentation	6 645 200	6 645 200	13 290 400
Section 28D. Office of Central Support Services			
Common support services	17 500	17 600	35 100
Total	**7 078 150**	**7 078 250**	**14 156 400**

68. The General Assembly would also be required to approve the proposed modifications to the outputs to be incorporated into the programme of work of section 23, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 under subprogramme 2, Supporting human rights bodies and organs (see para. 63 above).

III. Overall requirements

69. The implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive and resumed substantive sessions of 2007 would give rise to additional requirements of $238,300 under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 and $14,205,700 under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, as shown in table 3 and in the annex. The additional requirements of $238,300 for 2006-2007 and $84,400 for 2008-2009 would be absorbed within the relevant sections of the approved appropriations for the biennium 2006-2007 and the proposed provisions for the biennium 2008-2009. However, additional provisions in the amount of $14,121,300 would be required in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

Table 3
Additional requirements for the biennium 2006-2007 and 2008-2009
(United States dollars)

	2006-2007	*2008-2009*
Section 2. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	119 800	13 290 400
Section 9. Economic and social affairs	—	49 300
Section 16. International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice	57 500	—
Section 18. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	61 000	—
Section 23. Human rights	—	830 900
Section 28D. Office of Central Support Services	—	35 100
Total	**238 300**	**14 205 700**
Less to be absorbed	(238 300)	(84 400)
Total additional requirements	**—**	**14 121 300**

IV. Contingency fund

70. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund was established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures were proposed that exceeded the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of

existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

71. Approval by the General Assembly of decisions 39/I and 39/II of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women would entail additional resources in the total amount of $14,121,300 under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, including $13,290,400 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and $830,900 under section 23, Human rights. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require additional appropriations for the biennium 2008-2009 to be approved by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

72. It is not possible at this stage to identify activities within sections 2 and 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 that could be deferred, curtailed or modified during that biennium in order to meet the additional requirement of $14,121,300.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

73. In summary, the implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive and resumed substantive sessions of 2007 would give rise to additional requirements as reflected in the annex to the present report as follows:

(a) To be absorbed within the appropriations for the biennium 2006-2007, an amount totalling $238,300 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($119,800); section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice ($57,500); and section 18, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific ($61,000);

(b) To be absorbed under the proposed provisions for the biennium 2008-2009, an amount totalling $84,400 under section 9, Economic and social affairs ($49,300); and under section 28D, Office of Central Support Services ($35,100).

74. Provisions made under sections 2, 9, 16, 18, 23 and 28D of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, together with extrabudgetary funds, in respect of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2007/13, 2007/15 and 2007/40 and decisions 2007/242, 2007/244, 2007/245, 2007/251, 2007/262, 2007/277 and 2007/278, are expected to cover the need for the supplementary resources which have been identified.

75. **The General Assembly is requested to**:

(a) **Approve the additional requirements estimated at $14,121,300 that would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, including $13,290,400 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and $830,000 under section 23, Human rights, as a charge against the contingency fund for the biennium 2008-2009 to be approved by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;**

(b) Approve the proposed modifications to the programme narratives and outputs to be incorporated into the programme of work of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, outlined under paragraph 17 above;

(c) Approve the proposed modifications to the programme narratives and outputs to be incorporated into the programme of work of section 23, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, outlined under paragraph 63 above.

Annex

Summary of requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive and resumed substantive sessions of 2007

			2006-2007	2008-2009		
		Budget section	*Requirements for expenditure (to be absorbed)*	*Requests for expenditure*	*To be absorbed*	*To be considered in context of the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009*
Economic and Social Council resolutions						
2007/13	Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti	9		13 500	13 500	—
2007/15	Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau	9		35 800	35 800	—
2007/40 and decisions	Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests	2	—	—	—	—
		9	—	—	—	—
2007/277 and 2007/278	Report of the seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and provisional agenda for its eighth session	28D	—	—	—	—
		35	—	—	—	—
	Support to the Bureau of the United Nations Forum on Forests in preparing for its future sessions					
Economic and Social Council decisions						
2007/242	Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fiftieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-first session of the Commission	2	74 000	—	—	—[a]
		16	7 500	—	—	—[a]
2007/244 and 2007/245	International expert group meeting on indigenous languages and venue and dates of the seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	2	—	—	—	—
		9	—	—	—	—
		23	—	—	—	—
2007/251	Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its sixteenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its seventeenth session	2	45 800	—	—	—[b]
		16	50 000	—	—	—[b]
2007/262	Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with regional cooperation	18	61 000	—	—	—[c]
2007/279	Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions	2	—	13 290 400	—	13 290 400
		23	—	830 900	—	830 900
		28D	—	35 100	35 100	—
Total			**238 300**	**14 205 700**	**84 400**	**14 121 300**

[a] Resources required relate to resolution 50/12 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
[b] Resources required relate to resolution 16/3 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Narcotic Drugs.
[c] Resources required relate to resolution 63/10 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

United Nations A/62/516–S/2007/648

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 54 (d)
Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 31 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the pleasure to transmit the statement of His Excellency Nizar Bin Sadeq Al-Baharna, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, made on the occasion of United Nations Day (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were issued as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 54 (d), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Tawfeeq Ahmed **Almansoor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-58321 (E) 091107

Annex to the letter dated 31 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

It gives me pleasure to respond to your generous invitation to join the esteemed gathering in the annual celebration of United Nations Day on 24 October, and to reaffirm the confidence of the peoples of the world in the United Nations and in its Charter, which has served for over 60 years as the guiding framework and compass for international relations.

As we celebrate this year in the presence of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the new Secretary-General of the United Nations, I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate him once again on having been selected for this important post that he so richly deserves. We commend his active and vital role in enhancing the effectiveness of the Organization and his initiatives in the service of the global community, most recently his call for the High-level Event on Climate Change so successfully held at the United Nations last month.

There can be no doubt that the achievements of the United Nations are far-reaching in many areas, including international peace and security, the protection of human rights, the promotion of economic and social development, the protection of women's and children's rights, and the eradication of colonization and racial discrimination. All of these achievements validate today's endeavour by we peoples who have put our trust in and rallied around the United Nations to seek further support for its efforts and programmes with a view to the achievement of its lofty goals and purposes in the area of peace and development.

As it convenes its sixty-second session, the United Nations is today confronted with one of the greatest threats to economic, social and, from a broader perspective, human stability, namely, the threat, or rather, threats, posed by climate change to the global environment, including all of the water, air and soil on planet Earth.

The concern of which I am speaking today was stressed by Sheikha Haya Al-Khalifa in her farewell address as President of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on 17 September 2007, when she said that the issue of climate change was no longer a matter of debate but had become a living reality that impinged on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The international community has in fact already laid the legal and institutional groundwork for addressing these threats through the United Nations at the level of this year's General Assembly in the High-level Event on Climate Change held on 24 December, at the level of the Security Council in the debate on climate change held in April of this year, and at the global level in the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Bali, Indonesia, this December. Climate change is therefore becoming the issue of both the present and the future.

This issue remains a constant reminder of the intimate link between the effects of climate change and the process of sustainable development, particularly during the discussions of the current General Assembly session, which have given rise to renewed calls for developed countries to fulfil their pledges of assistance to developing and less developed countries to address the effects of climate change and

the burdens of development so that the desired equitable balance between the two sides is achieved.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is tackling the effects of climate change both directly and indirectly. It has developed a comprehensive sustainable development strategy that takes all factors into account and combines compliance with international conventions, particularly those relating to climate change, with the provision of comprehensive economic, social, health and humanitarian care to all of its citizens for the sake of prosperity and stability.

In order to respond to these challenges, fulfil its commitment to cooperate with the United Nations and the international community, and do whatever necessary to forestall the negative effects of climate change, the Kingdom of Bahrain, by a decision of His Highness the Prime Minister in September of this year, has approved the establishment of a joint national committee to address the effects of climate change. It has also identified ways and means by which to introduce environment-friendly technology, draft regulations and measures for the implementation of agreements in conformity with national laws, and prepare the Kingdom's national reports on the subject of climate change.

While the Kingdom of Bahrain has established its own national mechanisms to protect against the harmful effects of climate change on the environment, the economy and humanity, it believes wholeheartedly that all such burdens are the shared responsibility of developed and developing countries, rich and poor, industrialized and non-industrialized, for the good of humankind and a stable future.

Today, as we celebrate United Nations Day, we rededicate our efforts, both with our partners for development and peace in the Gulf and Arab region, and with the United Nations, for the sake of greater success in achieving not only the Millennium Development Goals but all of the lofty purposes of the United Nations.

United Nations A/62/517–S/2007/649

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 22
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 31 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 31 October 2007, addressed to you by Kemal Gökeri, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the letter and its enclosure could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-58284 (E) 091107

Annex to the letter dated 31 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter dated 30 October 2007 addressed to you by Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Kemal **Gökeri**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

30 October 2007

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Tassos Papadopoulos, at the sixty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 26 September 2007 in his purported capacity as the "President of the Republic of Cyprus", and to respond as follows.

We, once again, have witnessed in the statement the distortion by the Greek Cypriot leadership of the historical facts as well as the current realities of Cyprus before the General Assembly. Needless to say, the Cyprus problem is not one of "invasion" and "occupation" as the Greek Cypriot leader likes to portray, but a political problem between the two peoples of Cyprus, namely Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots, who were the co-founder partners of the 1960 Republic of Cyprus until 1963 when the Greek Cypriot partner monopolized the state by ejecting Turkish Cypriots from all organs of the state machinery in accordance with a premeditated plan, namely the *Akritas Plan* (see A/33/115-S/12722 dated 30 May 1978). The atrocities perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriots, who resisted this attempted takeover aimed at the annexation of the island to Greece (*Enosis*) — expressly and explicitly prohibited by the International Cyprus Treaties establishing the 1960 Republic of Cyprus — are well-recorded in the annals of the United Nations as well as in the international media. Therefore, when Mr. Papadopoulos makes references to terms such as "enclaved", "missing persons", "refugees" and "human right violations" in Cyprus, he should remember that these indeed are the terms defining the conditions under which the Turkish Cypriots were forced to live between the years 1963 and 1974 at the hands of the Greek Cypriot armed elements.

Having set the record straight, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that each consecutive year, the statements of the Greek Cypriot leader before the Assembly become more and more distant from the realities of the Cyprus problem as well as the international efforts towards a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus. This year, for example, he went as far as claiming that and I quote: "... *efforts to solve the Cyprus problem have not been filtered through a system of values and norms of international law*". This is a clear attempt to do away with the well-established United Nations parameters and the body of work for the settlement of the Cyprus problem that came into being in 40 years of negotiations under the auspices of the successive Secretaries-General of the United Nations. This, unfortunately, is a result of the acquiescence of the international community to the maximalist and counterproductive policies and rhetoric of the Greek Cypriot leadership.

Such statements of the Greek Cypriot leadership, naturally, do not bode well for future efforts for a settlement. In this speech, he once again undermined your good offices mission by continuously referring to Turkey as his counterpart in the search for a settlement in Cyprus and made no reference to the Turkish Cypriot side in this regard. I am of the view that the Greek Cypriot leadership should be reminded by the United Nations that the mission of good offices of the United Nations Secretary-General concerns and involves the two sides in Cyprus. His remarks are more meaningful when read together with the statement of his Spokesperson, Mr. Vassilis Palmas who is on record as saying that "*We [the Greek Cypriot side] never claimed that Mr. Papadopoulos and Mr. Talat are in a position*

to solve the Cyprus problem, what we are saying is that any contact can contribute in a positive direction" (Greek Cypriot Official News Agency (CNA), 19 September 2007).

Mr. Papadopoulos also referred to the efforts for a settlement as "*a constitutional arrangement set up primarily on the basis of ethnic origin*", which he is also against. The Greek Cypriot leadership should be cautioned that the efforts for a settlement are aimed at the establishment of a new partnership on the basis of well-established United Nations parameters, such as political equality, equal status and bizonality. It has never been and it will never be an exercise of a constitutional arrangement through which Turkish Cypriots are to be patched up to the "Republic of Cyprus" and absorbed by it through osmosis.

In the same statement, Mr. Papadopoulos asked and I quote: "*So why does this problem persist after so many years during which the national, regional and international political landscape has undergone dramatic changes?*" as if he was not the Greek Cypriot leader who, after paying so much lip service to the Annan Plan before securing unilateral European Union membership, had made a drastic change of policy and called on his people for a "resounding no vote" to the United Nations Comprehensive Settlement Plan in a very sentimental televised address two weeks before the separate simultaneous referendums on 24 April 2004. Mr. Günter Verheugen, the then European Union Commissioner responsible for enlargement is on record as saying that "*I feel personally cheated by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus*" (Mr. Verheugen's statement before the European Parliament on 21 April 2004). Hence, Mr. Papadopoulos's effort to conceal the fact that he has the sole responsibility for the continuation of the Cyprus problem is not at all successful.

He also claims in his statement that the Plan had satisfied all Turkish *desiderata*, and that is why it was readily accepted by the Turkish side. Let me remind Mr. Papadopoulos that as the former United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan put it, the Turkish Cypriots voted in favour of the Plan "*notwithstanding the significant sacrifices that it entailed for many of them*" (statement issued by the Spokesman of the Secretary-General on 24 April 2004 on the outcome of the referendums in Cyprus (S/2004/437, annex). It seems that Mr. Papadopoulos does not want to accept the fact that any settlement requires compromises from all sides.

It is very unfortunate that the Greek Cypriot leadership denies even the existence of the isolations and restrictions on the Turkish Cypriot people, in complete disregard of the fact that international organizations like the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Organization of the Islamic Conference as well as individual States have called for the lifting of the isolations. It does not instil confidence in the Turkish Cypriot people regarding the sincerity of the Greek Cypriot leadership towards a fair and mutually acceptable settlement in Cyprus when the Greek Cypriot leadership denies the existence of the isolations on the one hand and tries to prevent any attempt aimed at the lifting of the isolations of the Turkish Cypriot people on the other. It has become in the past few years a practice for the Greek Cypriot leader to give the General Assembly economic figures and rankings vis-à-vis the Turkish Cypriot economy in a futile attempt to prove that isolations do not exist. Any relative improvement in the Turkish Cypriot economy is a direct result of our pro-solution policies approved and

supported by the international community as a whole. It would be rather more informative if the Greek Cypriot leader next year gives the Assembly a comparative analysis of the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot economies and explains the huge gap between the two economies on this small island.

Similarly, one cannot take the Greek Cypriot side seriously when it proposes confidence-building measures in the island while at the same time it continues to block, with all means at its disposal, any attempt aimed at lifting the isolations. I believe that it is high time for the international community, particularly the United Nations and the European Union, to act on its decisions and promises and lift the isolations of the Turkish Cypriot people without further delay. As I stated on numerous occasions, lifting the isolations is not an end in itself, but will also be conducive to a settlement in the island by bridging the economic gap between the two sides, leading to a smoother unification of the island in the event of a settlement. It would be remembered that one of the arguments used by the Greek Cypriot leadership for rejecting the Annan Plan was the claim that the Greek Cypriot people would be burdened with the economic cost of the settlement.

As regards the exploitation of the natural resources on and around the island of Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot leadership should be reminded that these belong to all inhabitants of the island of Cyprus. Such unilateral initiatives, taken in complete disregard of the legitimate rights of the Turkish Cypriots, are another proof of the fact that the Greek Cypriot leadership is not seeking an early solution to the Cyprus problem. Otherwise, it would not have taken unilateral steps that would not be conducive to a comprehensive settlement. Such issues could easily be jointly taken up after the solution of the Cyprus problem. This is another indication that the priority of the Greek Cypriot leadership is not the solution of the Cyprus problem, but the further exploitation and consolidation of its usurped title as the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus".

In his statement, the Greek Cypriot leader claims that he is committed to the implementation of the 8 July process, but continues to reject my proposal put forward to this end during our meeting on 5 September 2007. In this meeting, aware of the fact that 14 months had already passed without any progress in the 8 July process, I proposed that after a preparation period of two and a half months to be carried out within the framework of the 8 July process, the full-fledged negotiations between the two leaders start and the working groups as well as the technical committees continue to work parallel to full-fledged negotiations. I was open to any alternative date that Mr. Papadopoulos might suggest for the start of the full-fledged negotiations, but he preferred to reject the whole idea that there should be any time limits in the process. My proposal continues to remain on the table. I sincerely believe that it can pave the way not only for the implementation of the 8 July process, but also for the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem in the shortest possible time. I also hope that Mr. Papadopoulos will positively respond to our package of confidence-building measures entitled "Turkish Cypriot revised package of proposals on confidence-building measures" (A/62/499-S/2007/625) which I put forward during my meeting with you on 16 October 2007.

In the statement, Mr. Papadopoulos asserts that "*a functional and enduring solution is not one that flows from a simplistic formula that merely reflects the power balance of the parties*". This is, indeed, the kind of solution that the Greek Cypriot leadership is seeking by exploiting its advantageous position vis-à-vis the

Turkish Cypriot side as the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus" and member of the European Union. It was with this mentality that Mr. Papadopoulos proposed before the Assembly in 2005 the assimilation of Turkish Cypriots in the European Union member "Republic of Cyprus" through osmosis. This is also why the Greek Cypriot leadership is against any improvement in the daily lives of the Turkish Cypriot people. In their view, the isolations on the Turkish Cypriot people should be consolidated until the gap between the two sides is wide enough for the Greek Cypriot side to impose its terms for a settlement on the Turkish Cypriot side without much resistance. Turkish Cypriots will never accept such an imposition.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our firm commitment to the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem under the auspices of your good offices mission and on the basis of the United Nations Settlement Plan of 31 March 2004.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Ali Talat**
President

United Nations A/62/518

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 November 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 77 (a)
Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 22 October 2007 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to inform you that the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, with the close collaboration of the International Maritime Organization, convened a meeting on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore: enhancing safety, security and environmental protection in Singapore from 4 to 6 September 2007. The meeting was a continuation of similar meetings held in Jakarta on 7 and 8 September 2005 and in Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 20 September 2006, which provided an avenue for engagement between littoral States and other interested parties on matters relating to the safety, security and environmental protection of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, while respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the littoral States.

The Singapore meeting formally established the Cooperative Mechanism for enhancing safety of navigation and environmental protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. The meeting produced the Singapore Statement (see annex), which emphasizes the need to continue supporting the work of the Tripartite Technical Expert Group on Safety of Navigation in enhancing the safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment of the Straits, as well as the Cooperative Mechanism established by the littoral States to promote dialogue and close cooperation between the littoral States, user States, the shipping industry and other stakeholders on the safety of navigation and environmental protection.

We would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 77 (a). We hope that it will provide useful input for the discussion of this agenda item.

(*Signed*) R. M. Marty M. **Natalegawa**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Hamidon **Ali**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Vanu Gopala **Minon**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations

07-57879 (E) 061107

Annex to the letter dated 22 October 2007 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Singapore Statement

on

enhancement of safety, security and environmental protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore

Singapore, 6 September 2007

The Government of the Republic of Singapore and the International Maritime Organization (hereinafter referred to as "IMO") convened, pursuant to the decisions of the Meeting on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore: Enhancing Safety, Security and Environmental Protection held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 18 to 20 September 2006 (hereinafter referred to as "the Kuala Lumpur Meeting") and of the ninety-seventh session of the Council of the IMO in relation to the Protection of Vital Shipping Lanes, a Meeting on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore: Enhancing Safety, Security and Environmental Protection, which took place in Singapore from 4 to 6 September 2007 (hereinafter referred to as "the Singapore Meeting"). The Singapore Meeting was organized in co-operation with the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of Malaysia.

The purpose of the Singapore Meeting was to provide a follow-up forum to build on the outcome of the Meeting on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore: Enhancing Safety, Security and Environmental Protection held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 7 and 8 September 2005 (hereinafter referred to as "the Jakarta Meeting") and the Kuala Lumpur Meeting. During the Singapore Meeting, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "littoral States") presented, *inter alia*: the actions taken by them in enhancing safety, security and environmental protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (hereinafter referred to as "the Straits") since the Kuala Lumpur Meeting; details on the Co-operative Mechanism they have established following the outline they provided during the Kuala Lumpur Meeting; and the progress made with regard to securing sponsors for the six projects on enhancing the safety of navigation and environmental protection in the Straits they presented during the Kuala Lumpur Meeting. The littoral States, user States and users of the Straits exchanged views on related matters and the participants were updated on the latest developments following the start of the implementation of the Marine Electronic Highway demonstration project for the Straits.

The Singapore Meeting was attended by Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore and by delegations from:

ANGOLA
AUSTRALIA
BAHAMAS
BANGLADESH
BELGIUM
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
CAMBODIA
CANADA
CHINA
CYPRUS
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
DENMARK
FINLAND
GERMANY
GREECE
INDIA
ITALY
JAPAN
KENYA
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
LIBERIA
MYANMAR
NEW ZEALAND
NORWAY
PANAMA
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
PHILIPPINES
REPUBLIC OF KOREA
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
SAUDI ARABIA
SOUTH AFRICA
SWEDEN
THAILAND
TURKEY
UKRAINE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
UNITED STATES

by a representative from the following United Nations specialized agency:

WORLD BANK GROUP

by observers from the following intergovernmental organization:

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)

and by observers from the following non-governmental organizations:

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING (ICS)

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION (ITF)

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MARINE AIDS TO NAVIGATION AND LIGHTHOUSE AUTHORITIES (IALA)

BIMCO

OIL COMPANIES INTERNATIONAL MARINE FORUM (OCIMF)

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SHIPMASTERS' ASSOCIATIONS (IFSMA)

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT TANKER OWNERS (INTERTANKO)

THE INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF P & I ASSOCIATIONS (P & I Clubs)

THE INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION LTD (ITOPF)

SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL GAS TANKER AND TERMINAL OPERATORS LIMITED (SIGTTO)

INTERNATIONAL PARCEL TANKERS ASSOCIATION (IPTA)

MALACCA STRAIT COUNCIL

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION

ASIAN SHIPOWNERS' FORUM

The SINGAPORE MEETING,

UPHOLDING the Batam Joint Statement, adopted on 2 August 2005 by the Fourth Tripartite Ministerial Meeting of the Littoral States on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore,

RECALLING the achievements of the Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur Meetings and upholding also the Jakarta Statement[1], adopted on 8 September 2005 by the Jakarta Meeting, and the Kuala Lumpur Statement[2], adopted on 20 September 2006 by the Kuala Lumpur Meeting,

RECALLING ALSO that the Straits are located within the territorial sea of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore and within the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of Malaysia and Indonesia and are straits used for international navigation as defined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (hereinafter referred to as "UNCLOS"),

RECOGNIZING the continued strategic importance of the Straits for regional and global seaborne trade and economy and the need to ensure that they remain safe and open to shipping at all times,

RECOGNIZING ALSO the importance of enhancing the safety, security and protection of the marine environment of the Straits and the possibility that unlawful acts committed therein may have a negative impact on the flow of traffic there-through; and, consequently, on trade and the economy,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER the equally important role of the Straits in contributing towards the development and enrichment of the economies and people of other States,

AFFIRMING the sovereignty, sovereign rights, jurisdiction and territorial integrity of the littoral States over the Straits, as provided for under international law, in particular UNCLOS, and that the primary responsibility over the safety of navigation, environmental protection and maritime security in the Straits lies with the littoral States,

COMMENDING the sustained efforts and achievements of the Tripartite Technical Experts Group on Safety of Navigation (hereinafter referred to as "TTEG on Safety of Navigation") in enhancing safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment in the Straits,

ACKNOWLEDGING that the TTEG on Safety of Navigation is an effective mechanism for advancing future co-operation efforts among interested parties consonant with article 43 of UNCLOS,

ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO the role of IMO, the user States, the shipping industry and other stakeholders in co-operating with the littoral States in promoting and enhancing safety of navigation and environmental protection, and in ensuring the uninterrupted flow of traffic in the Straits,

WELCOMING the progress made in relation to the implementation of the Marine Electronic Highway Demonstration Project for the Straits of Malacca and Singapore,

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[1] The Jakarta Statement is set document IMO/JKT 1/2. It is also found in document C/ES.23/8 (Secretary-General), annex 2 and in document IMO/SGP 1/INF.3, annex 5

[2] The Kuala Lumpur Statement is set out in document IMO/KUL 1/4. It is also found in document C 97/12 (Secretary-General), annex 2 and in document IMO/SGP 1/INF.3, annex 6.

COMMENDING the significant and effective efforts of the littoral States since the Kuala Lumpur Meeting in enhancing safety of navigation, environmental protection and security in the Straits; and, in particular, in reducing substantially the number of shipping incidents, oil spill incidents from ships, and armed robbery and other unlawful acts against ships,

COMMENDING FURTHER the joint efforts of the armed forces of the littoral States in contributing to the security of the Straits, through the Malacca Straits Sea Patrols and the "Eyes in the Sky" maritime air patrols, as formalized by the signing of the Malacca Straits Patrol Standard Operating Procedures on 21 April 2006,

WELCOMING WITH APPRECIATION the establishment by the littoral States of the Co-operative Mechanism between the littoral States and user States on safety of navigation and environmental protection in the Straits[3], consisting of three components namely the Co-operation Forum, the Project Co-ordination Committee and the Aids to Navigation Fund (hereinafter referred to as "Co-operative Mechanism"), the aim of which is to facilitate regular discussions, exchange of information and co-operation between littoral States, user States, the shipping industry and other stakeholders for the enhancement of safety of navigation in and protection of the environment of the Straits,

RECOGNIZING that the establishment of the Co-operative Mechanism represents, notwithstanding the role of the TTEG on Safety of Navigation, a historic breakthrough and landmark achievement in co-operation between States bordering a strait used for international navigation and user States as well as other interested stakeholders, and, for the first time, brings to realization the spirit and intent of article 43 of the UNCLOS,

RECOGNIZING ALSO the importance and potential of the Co-operative Mechanism in promoting dialogue and co-operation on matters pertaining to the enhancement of the safety of navigation in, and the protection of the environment of, the Straits,

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION that the Information Sharing Centre (hereinafter referred to as "the Centre") of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia is already operational and welcoming the indication of preparedness of Indonesia and Malaysia to co-operate with the Centre,

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION ALSO the contribution States and other stakeholders have made and continue to make towards the enhancement of the safety of navigation in, and the protection of the environment of, the Straits,

RECALLING that the littoral States identified, during the Kuala Lumpur Meeting, six projects aimed at enhancing the safety of navigation in, and the protection of the environment of, the Straits (hereinafter referred to as "the six projects") and that the Kuala Lumpur Meeting has agreed that the implementations of the six projects should be supported,

COMMENDING the States which initiated a process, or made arrangements, for supporting or undertaking the implementation of some of the six projects or parts thereof,

DESIRING that the Straits remain safe and open to international shipping at all times, in accordance with international law, in particular UNCLOS, and, where applicable, domestic law, and to build upon and enhance existing co-operative arrangements and measures towards this end,

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[3] Refer to document IMO/SGP 1/2.1/1 (Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore).

DESIRING FURTHER to continue to enhance the safety, security and environmental protection of the Straits,

HAS AGREED that:

(a) the work of the TTEG on Safety of Navigation, in enhancing the safety of navigation and in protecting the marine environment in the Straits, should continue to be supported and encouraged;

(b) the Co-operative Mechanism, which comprises of the Co-operation Forum, the Project Co-ordination Committee and the Aids to Navigation Fund, should be supported and encouraged;

(c) user States, shipping industry and other stakeholders should seek to participate in and endeavour to contribute, on a voluntary basis, to the work of the Co-operative Mechanism;

(d) the projects[4] presented at the Kuala Lumpur Meeting or parts thereof which have not yet attracted sponsors should be supported; and

(e) the littoral States should continue their efforts towards enhancing maritime security in the Straits and that such efforts should be supported and encouraged;

HAS INVITED the IMO to participate in the Co-operative Mechanism, to continue to co-operate with the littoral States and to provide every assistance possible in attracting sponsors for the projects presented during the Kuala Lumpur Meeting and contributors for the establishment, maintenance, repair and replacement of the aids to navigation in the Straits;

EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION to the Government of the Republic of Singapore for the excellent arrangements made for, and for the facilities and generous hospitality provided during, the Singapore Meeting; and to the Governments of the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Republic of Singapore and the International Maritime Organization for their diligent efforts to prepare for the Singapore Meeting and ensure its successful conclusion.

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[4] Refer to document IMO/KUL 1/3. The littoral States have updated the projects presented during the Kuala Lumpur Meeting and the updated versions of the projects are provided in document IMO/SGP 1/3 (Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore).

United Nations A/62/519

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 November 2007
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 8
General debate

Letter dated 31 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the Argentine Republic in exercise of the right of reply to the letter dated 28 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/62/485 and annex) referring to the remarks made by President Nestor Kirchner on 25 September 2007, at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Argüello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-58225 (E) 071107 071107

Annex to the letter dated 31 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

On 28 September 2007, the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the President of the Nation, Nestor Kirchner, on 25 September last, at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, requested that a letter and a statement dated 15 October 2007 be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 8 (A/62/485 and annex).

The Government of the Argentine Republic rejects the unfounded and offensive remarks made in that statement against its institutions and against President Nestor Kirchner.

In his address to the General Assembly, the President recalled that the Argentine Republic had repeatedly condemned the serious threat of global terrorism, as he considers terrorist acts to be criminal and unjustifiable. He also recalled that all States in the international community and, in particular, in the United Nations, must work together to prevent and eliminate this scourge.

Accordingly, on behalf of the Argentine Republic, the President of the Nation reiterated his request for the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the framework of applicable international law, to cooperate effectively with the Argentine courts in order to clarify the facts in the AMIA (Argentine-Israelite Mutual Association) case, in connection with the blowing-up in 1994 of the headquarters of that institution in the city of Buenos Aires, in which 85 people lost their lives.

In that regard, President Nestor Kirchner appealed to the Islamic Republic of Iran to process the judicial request, for the sole purpose of clarifying the facts and judging those responsible, out of respect for the memory of the victims.

In the aforementioned proceedings, an arrest warrant has been issued against several Iranian citizens and one Lebanese citizen who were involved. Likewise, both the Secretary General and the Executive Committee of INTERPOL unanimously decided to issue the arrest warrants (known as "red notices") for those citizens. The final decision will be submitted to the INTERPOL General Assembly, to be held in Morocco from 5 to 8 November 2007, so that the decision of the Executive Committee may be ratified by the Assembly.

United Nations A/62/520

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 November 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda items 128 and 140

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Resource requirements for procurement investigations

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report addresses interim arrangements for the Procurement Task Force. The Office of Internal Oversight Services has reported on the activities of the Task Force for the 18-month period ended 30 June 2007 (A/62/272). As indicated in that report, it is unlikely that the pending investigations being handled by the Task Force will be completed by the end of 2007. Consequently, the present report proposes interim arrangements for the Task Force for 2008 pending the finalization and review of proposals to strengthen the Investigations Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

07-57891 (E) 061107

I. Introduction

1. The Procurement Task Force of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) was established in January 2006. The Office has reported on the activities of the Task Force for the 18-month period ended 30 June 2007 (A/62/272). As indicated in that report, the Task Force investigates all procurement-related cases involving procurement bidding exercises, procurement staff and vendors doing business with the United Nations. The Task Force operates as part of OIOS and reports directly to the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services.

2. While the Procurement Task Force was intended as an interim ad hoc entity established to address a particular problem, it is unlikely that the pending investigations being handled by the Task Force will be completed by the end of 2007. It is expected that revised estimates under the programme budget for 2008-2009 for the Office of Internal Oversight Services will be submitted to the General Assembly that will address the required strengthening of the investigations function within OIOS, taking into consideration recommendations resulting from the review of the Investigations Division. The incorporation of the competence of the Task Force into the overall capacity of OIOS will be reviewed in the context of finalizing proposals to be submitted to the Assembly. In the interim, the present report proposes arrangements for the Procurement Task Force for 2008.

II. Workplan of the Procurement Task Force for 2008

3. As indicated above, the activities of the Procurement Task Force for the 18-month period ended 30 June 2007 have been detailed in a report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The Procurement Task Force has now turned its full attention to large contracts in the peacekeeping missions and other large-scale matters at Headquarters. Experience has shown that investigations of large and complex procurement contracts are time-consuming. Furthermore, the investigation of such cases requires investigators with special skills, background and experience in the investigation of fraud, corruption and economic crimes. OIOS has assembled a highly specialized team with the requisite staff skills and competencies that has proven itself.

4. Accordingly, arrangements are required to maintain the investigative capacity of the Task Force during 2008 to handle existing caseload, pending the review of proposals to strengthen the Investigations Division. At the same time, it is envisioned that a basic forensic capacity will be established within the Task Force during the period. OIOS estimates that this will limit requirements for the external engagement of forensic expertise and will lead to significant economies in the long term.

III. Cost estimates for 2008

5. It is recalled that, following the creation of the Procurement Task Force, the Secretary-General reported in December 2006 on the ad hoc arrangements that had been put in place to support the activities of the Procurement Task Force (A/61/603). At that time it was noted that it was expected that the work of the Task Force would be concluded on 31 December 2007, with any residual cases still to be

investigated to be handled as part of the regular caseload of the Investigations Division during the biennium 2008-2009. Furthermore, it was indicated that given the nature and scope of its activities, charges for the Procurement Task Force would be apportioned between the peacekeeping budgets and the regular budget on the basis of the nature of the cases and would be dealt with in the context of the related performance reports. Consequently, no additional appropriation was requested at that time.

6. In the light of the current situation as reported by OIOS (A/62/272), interim arrangements are required to provide for the activities of the Task Force beyond the end of the biennium 2006-2007. Consequently, it is proposed that the activities of the Task Force for 2008 be carried out drawing, to the extent possible, on the established staffing table of the Investigations Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Vacant posts would be utilized pending the long-term recruitment of staff against such posts. Operational costs would be absorbed to the greatest extent possible, and the outcome of those efforts would be reported in the context of performance reports on the regular and peacekeeping budgets during the period. As indicated above, the incorporation of the competence of the Task Force into the overall capacity of OIOS for the latter half of the current biennium will be reviewed in the context of finalizing proposals to be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration.

7. Requirements for the Procurement Task Force for 2008 are estimated at $4.9 million, which compares with expenditure of $3.7 million for 2006 and estimated expenditure of $5.1 million for 2007, as follows:

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*2006 expenditure*	*2007 estimate*	*2008 estimate*
Other staff costs	1 964.9	2 952.3	2 993.3
Travel	417.0	351.2	432.0
Consultants	237.1	132.0	—
Contractual services	698.6	1 181.3	696.0
General operating expenses	364.1	446.5	595.8
Furniture and equipment	7.7	41.2	132.9
Supplies and materials	51.4	16.5	20.0
Total	**3 740.8**	**5 121.0**	**4 870.0**

8. Out of a total estimate of $4.9 million, general temporary assistance under other staff costs represents the bulk of the requirements for the period. The amount of $3 million would provide for the continuation of the Task Force, comprising 27 positions (1 Chairman, 1 Senior Investigator, 18 Investigators, 1 Forensic Officer, 1 Associate Officer, 1 Information Technology Officer, 1 Information Manager, 1 Administrative Officer and 2 General Service (Other level) support staff). Requirements of $595,800 for general operating expenses would provide for the rental of office space, as well as communications and other operating expenses. Furniture and equipment provisions of $132,900 would cover software and other office automation equipment during the period. An estimate of $20,000 would

provide for supplies and materials. Travel and contractual services requirements are estimated at $432,000 and $696,000 respectively. Contractual services requirements include provisions for on-site training of investigators to perform basic forensic tasks such as searching and filtering data, allowing them to flexibly refine their searches in real time as results are returned, thereby reducing dependency on consultants. Consequently, these requirements take into account reduced reliance on forensic consultants.

9. As previously indicated, charges for the Procurement Task Force would be apportioned between the peacekeeping budgets and the regular budget. These charges would be shared on the basis of shares of 85 per cent for peacekeeping budgets and 15 per cent for the regular budget. On the basis of the estimates detailed above, requirements of $4,139,500 would arise under the peacekeeping budgets, and requirements of $730,500 would arise under the regular budget under section 29, Internal oversight ($627,200), and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services ($103,300) of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, covering both operational requirements and office accommodation and related expenses of the Task Force.

10. The arrangements set out in the present report are temporary in nature. There is a need to ensure adequate long-term support for the investigation of irregularities in procurement and other areas. However, strengthening the investigative capacity of the Organization will require a comprehensive assessment of the appropriate arrangements required to be put in place in the long term. Such longer-term proposals will draw upon the review of enterprise risk management and the internal control framework which is currently being carried out pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/245. Notably, steps to ensure transparency, independence and accountability in carrying out the work of the Organization are well under way with the creation of the Ethics Office and the ongoing review of the accountability framework. Accordingly, while the lessons learned from the Procurement Task Force will be fully taken into account, it is expected that forthcoming proposals to strengthen the investigative capacity of the Organization will draw upon comprehensive experience gained with respect to a much broader spectrum of issues.

IV. Recommendation

11. **The General Assembly may wish to note that the continuation of the activities of the Procurement Task Force would give rise to additional requirements of $4,139,500 under the peacekeeping budgets and requirements of $730,500 under the regular budget under section 29, Internal oversight ($627,200), and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services ($103,300), of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, which would be accommodated, to the extent possible, within the appropriations for the period and would be reported in the context of performance reports.**

United Nations A/62/520*

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 November 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda items 128 and 140

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Resource requirements for procurement investigations

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report addresses interim arrangements for the Procurement Task Force. The Office of Internal Oversight Services has reported on the activities of the Task Force for the 18-month period ended 30 June 2007 (A/62/272). As indicated in that report, it is unlikely that the pending investigations being handled by the Task Force will be completed by the end of 2007. Consequently, the present report proposes interim arrangements for the Task Force for 2008 pending the finalization and review of proposals to strengthen the Investigations Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

07-57891* (E) 141107

I. Introduction

1. The Procurement Task Force of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) was established in January 2006. The Office has reported on the activities of the Task Force for the 18-month period ended 30 June 2007 (A/62/272). As indicated in that report, the Task Force investigates all procurement-related cases involving procurement bidding exercises, procurement staff and vendors doing business with the United Nations. The Task Force operates as part of OIOS and reports directly to the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services.

2. While the Procurement Task Force was intended as an interim ad hoc entity established to address a particular problem, it is unlikely that the pending investigations being handled by the Task Force will be completed by the end of 2007. It is expected that revised estimates under the programme budget for 2008-2009 for the Office of Internal Oversight Services will be submitted to the General Assembly that will address the required strengthening of the investigations function within OIOS, taking into consideration recommendations resulting from the review of the Investigations Division. The incorporation of the competence of the Task Force into the overall capacity of OIOS will be reviewed in the context of finalizing proposals to be submitted to the Assembly. In the interim, the present report proposes arrangements for the Procurement Task Force for 2008.

II. Workplan of the Procurement Task Force for 2008

3. As indicated above, the activities of the Procurement Task Force for the 18-month period ended 30 June 2007 have been detailed in a report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The Procurement Task Force has now turned its full attention to large contracts in the peacekeeping missions and other large-scale matters at Headquarters. Experience has shown that investigations of large and complex procurement contracts are time-consuming. Furthermore, the investigation of such cases requires investigators with special skills, background and experience in the investigation of fraud, corruption and economic crimes. OIOS has assembled a highly specialized team with the requisite staff skills and competencies that has proven itself.

4. Accordingly, arrangements are required to maintain the investigative capacity of the Task Force during 2008 to handle existing caseload, pending the review of proposals to strengthen the Investigations Division. At the same time, it is envisioned that a basic forensic capacity will be established within the Task Force during the period. OIOS estimates that this will limit requirements for the external engagement of forensic expertise and will lead to significant economies in the long term.

III. Cost estimates for 2008

5. It is recalled that, following the creation of the Procurement Task Force, the Secretary-General reported in December 2006 on the ad hoc arrangements that had been put in place to support the activities of the Procurement Task Force (A/61/603). At that time it was noted that it was expected that the work of the Task Force would be concluded on 31 December 2007, with any residual cases still to be

investigated to be handled as part of the regular caseload of the Investigations Division during the biennium 2008-2009. Furthermore, it was indicated that given the nature and scope of its activities, charges for the Procurement Task Force would be apportioned between the peacekeeping budgets and the regular budget on the basis of the nature of the cases and would be dealt with in the context of the related performance reports. Consequently, no additional appropriation was requested at that time.

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